Forcible stoppage of passenger trains in Andhra Pradesh

2522. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware that there are forcible stoppage of passenger trains by the vendors and general public in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to stop such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARAINBHAI RATHWA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 456 incidents of stoppage of passenger trains by the public were reported over Andhra Pradesh State during the year 2005. 456 persons responsible for forcible detection of passenger trains were apprehended and prosecuted under the provisions of the Railways Act. No incident of stoppage of passenger trains by the vendors was reported.

(c) The following steps are taken to prevent such incidents:—

1. Railway Protection Force (RPF) stall is being deployed for escorting of trains to prevent the incident of unauthorized Alarm Chain Pulling (ACP) in order to maintain punctuality.
2. RPF Staff are being deployed for bandobust duties in coordination with Government Railway Police/Local Police during Bandh, Agitation, Rail Roko etc. for smooth running of trains.
3. Culprits are being prosecuted under relevant sections of law.
4. Intelligence is being exchanged with Government Railway Police and Local Police regarding the potential mischief makers.
5. Coordination meetings are regularly held with Local Police and Government Railway Police (GRP).

Reservations of berths for women in railway coaches

2523. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some berths are reserved exclusively for men in most of the trains in the first cabin of a particular coach;

(b) whether most of the theft and harassment cases are being reported from women as their berths are reserved in ladies quota in the first cabin just adjacent to door, which enables he pick pocketers to snatch their gold ornaments and other valuables easily; and

(c) if so, whether Government have taken measures to provide the ladies quota in the mid of a coach to ensure their safety and smooth journey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARAINBHAI RATHWA): (a) A reservation quota of six berths in Sleeper class has been earmarked for ladies normally in first cabin in most of the Mail/Express trains.

(b) No such case of theft/harassment has been reported from lady passengers, travelling on the berths reserved in ladies quota.

(c) Does not arise.

Kulhar and Khadi in Railways

†2524. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the use of Kulhar and Khadi has been made compulsory in the Indian Railways;

(b) if so, from when;

(c) the railway zones where this order had been enforced; and

(d) the details of relaxation given in it, zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NARAINBHAI RATHWA): (a) Use of Kulhar has not been made compulsory on Indian Railways, but the use of Khadi/handloom has been made compulsory on the Indian Railways.

(b) Use of Khadi/handloom has been made compulsory since June 2004.

(c) The order of Khadi/handloom has been enforced on all zonal railways.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.